figures in regard to the incidence of taxation ; and, secondly, you have spoken about the earning capacity of the people here and elsewhere. Whether these figures can bear examination and whether the several arguments you have put forward are sound or fallacious are matters which cannot be answered without an amount of study and scrutiny which you cannot expect me to make on the spur of the moment. I have noted your objection to auction sale in *puduval* cases ; and I shall consider it very carefully. I think you are right in emphasising the need for retrenchment. I will only request you to wait and see what the Government are going to do in this direction.

**3. A fair, equitable and efficient administration of the State Finance.**

*Mr. Krishnan Madhavan* (Member, Karunagapalli Taluk) submitted that the finances of the State could not be considered satisfactory or their distribution among the different Divisions and Departments adequate, and that the revenues were not being spent to the best advantage of the people. While observing that more funds were needed to meet the requirements of a progressive administration, the Member pointed out that there was no possibility of raising more money from the people, as all sources of income had already been tapped, and that it was, therefore, highly necessary to scrupulously avoid all extravagant and wasteful expenditure, including the creation of new offices. Out of a gross revenue of Rs. 198 lakhs, as much as a sum of Rs. 62½ lakhs was spent upon the public service in Travancore. Such a large expenditure would not be necessary, if sons of the soil were appointed to all responsible posts. There were duly qualified men in the country to fill all such places and the only thing needed was to give them an opportunity for service. The pay of most of the officers in Travancore was very high, compared with that obtaining in Japan. It was pointed out that the appointment of Assistant Tahsildars served no useful purpose. The Public Works Department was overmanned and the retrenchments recommended by the Salaries Committee should be given effect to. He observed that there was a great deal of waste in that Department, as could be proved by the enormous profits earned by contractors. It was a pity that there was no competent officer in the Secretariat to scrutinise the estimates of the Department. Again, the amounts allowed for the maintenance of village roads were extravagant; this item of expenditure might well be avoided altogether and the funds utilised for the construction of new roads. The charges on account of the maintenance of public buildings were also needlessly heavy, while the allotment for the construction of roads was inadequate. Supplemental estimates and memos of cost which tended to increase the original estimates should not be sanctioned. The charges on tools and plant were very heavy, since the materials were now ordered from foreign countries at enormous cost. All those materials could well be manufactured in the local P. W. D. Workshop itself. A proper re-adjustment of the jurisdiction of P. W. D. Officers might be effected. For instance, it would be more convenient and less costly to place the Attingal Sub-Division under the Trivandrum Division instead of under the Nagercoil Division. The Member, in passing, requested Government to take over the maintenance of the Panmana road which had been opened to a length of 4 miles by the people.

In the administration of criminal justice, Police Officers should be made to realise that the Magistrates were not dependent on them; there was therefore the need for the equalisation of the salaries of the Magistrates with those of Circle Inspectors of Police, so that the work of these officers might be carried on in concord and amity. The post of Circle Inspectors of Police should be abolished in the Divisions in which they were still allowed to continue. In the Excise Department a Reserve Inspector was not necessary to be in charge of the uniforms, etc., of the Excise subordinates and there was no necessity for a Circle Officer and a Manager in the Excise Commissioner's Office. There were too many Sirkar Vakils and yet separate vakils were engaged for conducting Government cases. This was an unnecessary and wasteful system. As a measure of local relief the Member suggested that the Sastamkotta lake which inundates the paddy fields below could be made useful by the diversion of its water westward through a feeder channel about one furlong long. He also pointed out that the want of capital from which many an enterprising Travancorean

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suffered could be remedied by the contracts in the different departments being given to the people of the country to the exclusion of foreigners. In conclusion, the Member said that the unemployment of the youths of the State was a great economic problem, a partial solution of which might be found in their being employed on the railways in Travancore after giving them the necessary training.

*Dewan's reply.*—I thank you very much for the valuable suggestions you have made. Many of your suggestions are being adopted. You refer to the importation of foreign officers. I believe you must have been convinced by the recent actions of Government that they have no intention of bringing in officers who are not Travancoreans except under very exceptional circumstances. You refer to the Magistracy being under the thumb of the Police. I think that, if any Magistrate is so, it is his own fault. I do not believe that such a state of affairs exists. You may take the assurance from me that the Government have done nothing to indicate that Magistrates should take their cue from the Police. You referred to Sirkar Vakils and to the additional expenditure incurred by Government by engaging other vakils for conducting Sirkar cases. You have overlooked one point in this matter. Sirkar Vakils are appointed to do a definite item of work, viz., the work in the District Courts, and they are only paid for this specific work. If we want to have other work done, we have either to engage other men or pay the Sirkar Vakils *extra*.

You have referred to the Sastamkotta lake, and the possibility of its being made useful for cultivation. I told you in my address that I was intending to visit the Western Kallada *pakuthi*. I know the Sastamkotta lake. I shall be very pleased to inspect the lake and see to what use it could be turned for purposes of irrigation.

In regard to your suggestion to train some young men of the country for service in the Railway Department, I shall remember it and see what could be done in the matter.

**4. Desirability of adopting a new policy of incurring expenditure in proportion to the receipts from the population of each taluk.**

*Mr. R. Parameswaran Pillai* (Member, Shertallai Taluk) said that the population and the revenue of each taluk should be accepted as the deciding factors in the determination of the expenditure to be incurred on account of that taluk. He pointed out that a sum of between 7 and 8 lakhs of rupees was being contributed to the State revenues by the people of Shertallai whose main occupation was the cultivation of the cocoanut palm under trying circumstances and observed that it would be disappointing if the money paid by them was not applied to the satisfaction of the barest needs of their taluk. He further pointed out that Shertallai was the third taluk in the State in point of population. The Member then spoke on the various needs of the taluk, especially in the matter of communication, and represented the urgent necessity of completing the Alleppey-Shertallai canal. He suggested that one-half of the sanctioned amount should be spent in its construction from the Shertallai end southward and the other half from the Alleppey end northward. He also requested that the road from Shertallai to Tannirmukkam and other roads might be soon completed with bridges wherever necessary, and suggested that every *pakuthi* in the taluk might be connected by a net-work of roads. Another suggestion of the Member was that a sea-coast railway from Quilon to Cochin along the seaboard taluks might be constructed out of funds raised by means of debenture loans, which had been found from experience to be a popular method of financing such concerns. Touching educational wants, the Member submitted that, owing to the lack of means of communication, only 12,300 out of a school-going population of 25,900 in his taluk attended schools. He requested that more schools might be opened, including an English Middle School for girls in the taluk.. The people had already paid into the treasury their contribution for the acquisition of the necessary lands for the local English High School (except the percentage due under the Land Acquisition Regulation on account of compulsory acquisition) and the Member prayed that the necessary orders might be issued to the Land Revenue and the P. W. Departments in the matter of the early acquisition of the lands and the prompt construction of the required buildings

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